



## Betty Cruse

August 9, 1942 - April 18, 2025

Betty Varnon Cruse, 82, of Cape Girardeau, passed away peacefully on Friday morning, April 18, 2025, at Fountainbleau Lodge in Cape Girardeau.

Betty was the fifth of ten children born to the late John Sam and Pauline Varnon of Morley/Scott City, MO. Betty was the widow of Robert (Bob) Cruse, a native of Scott City, who passed away in 2019. At the time of Bob's death, she and Bob had been married for 55 years. They were the parents of one son, Stephen Robert Cruse, who passed away in 1998.

Betty attended Morley public schools until Morley consolidated to create Scott County Central High School in 1959. The following year, Betty graduated from Scott County Central High School. In 1964, Betty completed her BS in Education (math) from Southeast Missouri State University. Later, she completed her master's degree at Webster University, Webster Groves. Betty and Bob were career teachers with the Hazelwood School District of St. Louis County.

Betty and Bob were each other's best friends. They both enjoyed their students and their teaching careers (Betty taught math; Bob taught art). If one enjoyed something, the other did, too, and they each doted on their son, Stephen.

Betty is survived by sisters Dr. Sue Stacy and Nita (Toby) Roodman of Cape Girardeau, MO; sister Patt Sharp of Kennett, MO; brothers Dr. Tony (Janet) Varnon of Cape Girardeau and Richard (Suzanne) Varnon of Germantown, TN; sister-in-law Deborah (Gary) Anderson of Cape Girardeau; brother-in-law Joe Raffety of Clarksville, TN; nieces Julia Raffety, Mary Raffety, Lily Varnon, Nikki Varnon, Sarah Pruden, and Lisa Enderle; nephews Joshua Varnon, Samuel Varnon, Jim Varnon, Matt Varnon, and Neil Sanders; and great-niece Lucy Varnon.

Betty was preceded in death by her sister Dee Raffety; brothers John Sam Varnon, Jr., Stanley Varnon, and Mack Varnon; nieces Jackie Varnon, Vickie Varnon, and Connie Varnon; nephews Michael Varnon and John Varnon; and brothers-in-law Dr. Bill Stacy and Stephen Sharp.

Visitation will be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 10, at Ford & Sons Funeral Home on Mount Auburn Road in Cape Girardeau, MO, with a memorial service following at 3:00 pm.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 10. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Memorial Service

MAY 10. 3:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ I will truly miss my Aunt Betty. Some of my happiest memories are when Aunt Betty, Uncle Bob, Stephen, Mom, Dad, and Mary and me would come together to visit during Christmas and summer at my grandmother's house in Scott City Missouri. It was such a special time for us. We had so much fun. We were so happy together. I would give anything to be able to do it all again. I hope Aunt Betty is with Uncle Bob and Stephen. I hope she is happy. She deserves happiness, peace, and love. I love her with all my heart.  
Julia Teresa

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**Julia Raffety** - May 09, 2025 at 05:01 PM

BM

“ Byron M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Cruse.

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**Byron M.** - May 08, 2025 at 04:04 PM

PS

“ I was such a lucky girl to have four special big sisters (and brothers, too)! While I am sorry, for us who are left to be without you now, I know you're happy to be with Bob and Stephen again – along with Mom and Dad, Dee, Stan, Mack, and other loved ones. Fun memories over all those years – starting in Morley (you, Nita, and me with our old-timey suppers and “Whosoever....” Then Scott City, where you and Bob found each other, and later your wonderful wonderful son Stephen. I'll always be thankful that mom told me every little detail of how to make her chicken and dumplings and I wrote them down and then you copied them, and then you made delicious chicken and dumplings just like hers! You know I'll miss those and so many other things, both big and small, big sister. I love you.

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**Patt Sharp** - May 05, 2025 at 01:48 PM

MR

“ Mary R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Cruse.

Mary R. - May 04, 2025 at 03:23 PM

MR

“ I will miss my Aunt Betty so much and will always remember her fondly from when I visited Missouri as a child. When my sister, Julia, and I were children, we couldn't wait for Christmas and the summer, because we knew we would get to visit the Varnons (Mom's side of the family) and see our favorite cousin, Stephen Cruse, Betty's only child. We lost Stephen way too soon. And then we lost Uncle Bob in 2020. I will never forget when Aunt Betty and Uncle Bob flew out to CA to visit Stephen, Aunt Sue, Uncle Bill and me when Stephen and I were in our 20s. It was a wonderful visit that made Stephen so happy. Those were the good years. I believe Aunt Betty is now with Stephen and Uncle Bob and I take solace in imagining her being reunited with them. Love you, Aunt Betty. Say hi to Steve-o-Reno for me. Please tell him and Uncle Bob that I love them.



Mary Raffety - May 04, 2025 at 03:19 PM

JV

“ James M. and Abby Varnon purchased the Full O f Love Bouquet for the family of Betty Cruse.



James M. and Abby Varnon - May 02, 2025 at 07:35 PM

RD

“ *Betty was my first friend when I started school at Morley in the third grade. We have been friends ever since. She was so much fun!* ”

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**ruth link dockins** - May 02, 2025 at 02:54 PM

JD

“ *Nita and family, our condolences on the loss of your sister.* ”

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**Joyce Daniels** - May 01, 2025 at 08:59 AM